

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 564, JANUARY 10, NOON.

SENT BONN 503; DEPARTMENT 564.

REFERENCE: BONN'S 1419 TO DEPARTMENT.

1) WE BELIEVE THAT GARRISON AIRLIFT SHOULD IN OPENING STAGES FLY AT CUSTOMARY ALTITUDES BELOW 10,000 FEET WHETHER SOVS LEAVE BASIC OR REMAIN. IF COMMUNISTS DECIDED NOT TO INTERCEPT WEST AIRCRAFT, THEY WOULD LIKELY HOLD TO DE FACTO DIVISION AIRSPACE IN CORRIDORS ON BASIS PRESENT ALTITUDES USED, ON GROUNDS THAT CORRIDOR AIRSPACE OVER 10,000 FEET NEEDED FOR CORRIDOR OVERFLIGHTS GDR AND OTHER PLANES.

2) FOR REASONS INDICATED FOREGOING, WE BELIEVE WESTERN AIRCRAFT SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE CORRIDORS EVEN IF SOVS WITHDRAW FROM BASIC, UNTIL IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT COMMUNISTS ARE INTERFERING WITH AIR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS OR TAKING OTHER ACTION PHYSICALLY TO CHANGE PRESENT CORRIDOR REGIME.

3) MISSION SEES NO ADVANTAGE FLIGHT TO BERLIN ABOVE 10,000 FEET AT THIS TIME. OUR FAILURE FLY OVER 10,000 IN PAST MIGHT MAKE AN ATTEMPT NOW TO FLY ABOVE THAT ALTITUDE APPEAR PROLOCATIVE, EXACERBATING ALREADY TENSE SITUATION.

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